

Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

44th Year--No. 6

10¢ Per Copy

12

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1958

12 PAGES

Residents Pledge Battle Against Use of Park for Little League Ball

Petitions Set On Park Fight

Southwood homeowners rallied yesterday in what appears to be a concerted drive to oust Little League baseball from Paradise Park, Lee St. and Elmwood Dr.

City councilmen last week approved converting the undeveloped park site to a baseball diamond and parking lot.

Homeowners in the area told the Torrance HERALD they planned to protest the council's decision both verbally and in writing. Many residents said they were not aware of the proposal until it had been approved.

"We are 100 per cent behind the Little League program, but we think the Paradise Park area should be developed for all the people in the area, not just for the few who will be playing ball there," declared Mrs. Robert Ackerman.

Residents of the area charged that Little Leaguers will be using the park for only about three months of the year.

"Meanwhile, where are all of our girls and the boys not Little League age, going to play?" Mrs. Ackerman asked.

Park and recreation officials estimate a baseball diamond will take a big hunk of the park site.

There are actually only four and a half acres in the site now and a diamond will take at least a two-acre slice.

In addition to the diamond facilities, parking in the area must be planned.

City Draws Lease Currently, city officials are drawing a lease for the park site with Southwood Little League proponents.

The council approved use of the park for Little League play last week after hearing from proponents of the plan and representatives of nearby residents. The council's action came after it was determined that the city could not develop the area for park purposes in the immediate future because of lack of funds.

A committee of residents and Little League officials was suggested by the council to work out actual details of the field layout to make it the least objectionable to residents of the area.

Request of Walter Wlasek, spokesman for the residents, that the Little League be required to post a performance bond, and agree to a ban on advertising signs and a public address system was turned down by the council with the comment that the Little League organization was a voluntary group and had no funds to use for bonds, and that the signs on the outfield fences helped defray costs of the program. Use of the public address system would be limited to daylight hours, Little League officials said. No lights for night games will be installed.

Present arrangements call for the construction of a diamond, bleachers, concession stands all to be done by the Little League group. The lease will contain a 30-day revocable clause, according to city officials.

Opponents of the move plan to circulate petitions and bombard city councilmen with letters protesting the lease arrangement.

GUNMAN GETS \$30
A gunman who threatened her life made off with \$30 from the cash register of her grocery store at 25004 Narbonne Ave. Mrs. Emma Bruner told sheriff's deputies Friday.

Isen May Use Title On Ballot

If the city's present mayor, Albert Isen, desires, he may be designated as "Mayor" or "Incumbent" on the ballot next April when he seeks election to the new elective office of mayor here, according to an opinion completed this week by the private legal firm of O'Melvaney & Myers of Los Angeles.

The ruling of the firm was sought after Isen's right to use "Incumbent" behind his name on the ballot was challenged by Nick Drale, a councilman and announced candidate for the mayor's office.

Job Not Changed The Los Angeles legal firm found that no changes in the duties and requirements of the office were made in the charter amendment approved by Torrance voters last October—only that the term of office and method of selection had been changed.

Prior to the Oct. 29 election, the charter of the city called for selection of the mayor by the council from among its members, and the term was at the pleasure of the council. It could be terminated at any time.

Serves Four Years Under the new provisions, the mayor will be elected at the polls and will serve for four years. He will be a member of the council and will be the presiding officer at council meetings.

The seven-page opinion of O'Melvaney & Myers backed up an earlier opinion made by City Attorney Stanley Remel-meyer.

LEN EHLERS HEADS THS STUDENTS

Len Ehlers, former junior class president, was named student body president at Torrance High School, according to election results announced Thursday at an after-school dance.

Bonnie Fletcher was named vice president of the student body.

Heading the classes at the school will be David Burdick, seniors; Victor Masaki, junior class; Mike Walker, sophomores; and Pat Walker, freshmen. Kent Bartholic and Jan Zuber will head the Boys' and Girls' Leagues respectively, while Jim Standidge was named court judge.

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Building Totals At \$6.6 Million

Torrance's building year got off to a flying start in January, with more permits issued in the first two weeks of this year than in the first five months of 1957.

According to Evelyn Coles of the Department of Public Works, permits zoomed to \$6,656,598, starting the new year off right.

STORK MAY HAVE SAVED LOCAL MAN

A 22-year-old Torrance man may have been saved a five-year jail sentence by the stork.

Dick Darrell Fields, convicted of conspiracy to smuggle marijuana in U.S. District Court in San Diego, will be sentenced on Feb. 7. His trial, however, closed on Jan. 14, and his 22nd birthday fell on Jan. 15.

This may be a significant fact, because, under federal law, anyone convicted of narcotics violations after he reaches his 22nd birthday receives a mandatory five-year sentence. Younger persons may receive shorter sentences or probations.

Fields, who has been arrested for investigation of narcotic violations in Torrance previously, was convicted of giving two San Ysidro men \$60 and a watch to buy marijuana for him in Tijuana. The two men pleaded guilty to the smuggling charge.

Fields' wife is expecting a baby.

Leading the parade were a \$3,100,000 permit for construction of the new Broadway store at 21710 Hawthorne Ave., and the Little Company of Mary Hospital at 4101 Torrance Blvd., which required a \$2,500,000 permit. In addition, a \$225,000 permit for construction of a service tunnel to serve the Broadway and other stores in the Del Amo Shopping Center was issued.

New Center Planned The Dominguez Estates took out a \$178,500 permit for a shopping center at 5012-20 W. 190th St., and Food Giant Markets took out an additional \$42,200 in permits for its new store at 4848 W. 190th St.

Arrow Brands, Inc., received a \$160,000 permit to build an office building for the manufacture of aluminum foil products at Jefferson and Crenshaw, while the Industrial Building Materials Co. took out a \$59,500 permit for construction of facilities for a new plant at 525 Maple Ave.

A \$50,000 permit for renovation of a store at 1301 Sartori Ave. (the old Safeway store) was taken out by George Binder.

Expansion Planned Felker Manufacturing Co., 1128 Border Ave., took out \$18,000 worth of permits for remodeling and expansion, and Dow Chemical, 305 Crenshaw Blvd., received \$16,000 permits for additional facilities.

On the home front, Wayne Nelson made plans to build 13 houses and garages in the 2400 block on 164th St., taking out \$155,660 in permits.

H. T. Latimer made ready to build a four-unit apartment at 17511 Yukon Ave., worth \$40,500.

Kick-Off for Recreation Issue Slated

A meeting to kick off a drive for petitions for a \$3 million recreation bond issue to be placed on the April ballot has been scheduled for 9 a.m. tomorrow morning in the City Hall.

Representatives of all areas of the city are expected to turn out for the meeting, which will organize the campaign. Petitions to be distributed throughout the city will be given to leaders of the drive.

At a special election in October, the recreation bond issue was turned down by the voters, although it received 62 per cent of the total. A two-thirds margin is required.

CHAMBER TO WELCOME NEW INDUSTRY TUESDAY

California Rubber Products, Inc., will be officially welcomed to Torrance at the monthly Membership Breakfast of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the YWCA.

The meeting, which will start promptly at 7:30 a.m., will be highlighted by the presentation of the official "Key to the City" to President William E. Shawger of the rubber firm.

Co-chairmen Fred Mill and John Strech reported that the plant moved to Torrance recently from facilities in Pasadena and Hawthorne will employ about 100 persons. The new firm is located at 1754 S. Crenshaw Blvd. Reservations for the breakfast are being accepted at the Chamber office.



LETTER FROM WASHINGTON . . . Glen Brown, Jeff Paulsrud, and Nancy Ruby, members of Larry Miller's fourth and fifth grade class at Parkway School, admire a letter which they received from Sherman Adams, assistant to President Eisenhower. The class had written a letter to Ike, supporting a scientific development program. (Herald Photo)

Pair Held To Answer Safe Theft

Preliminary hearings for two Los Angeles men charged with theft of a 600-pound safe from a Torrance auto agency last week have been scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Wednesday before Municipal Judge John A. Shidler here.

Arraigned Friday were Thomas F. Martin, 32, and Jess Coates, 37. They are being held in county jail in lieu of \$1500 bail.

Coates and Martin are charged with theft of the safe from the Herman Miller auto agency at 1800 Cabrillo Ave. Tuesday night. They were apprehended by Los Angeles police shortly after the theft after a witness had given the auto license number of their auto to Torrance police.

Coates was a former employee of the firm.

MURDER TRIAL SET

William E. Riddle, identified as a Torrance refrigeration mechanic, pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges of murdering his estranged wife. Trial was ordered for Feb. 24.

Center Reduced by Needs of Freeway

The state's plans for the San Diego Freeway have forced reduction in size of a proposed north Torrance shopping center at 182nd and Crenshaw Blvd., the Torrance Planning Commission was informed Wednesday night.

The planners okayed a variance for a small five-store center on the Southwest corner of the intersection proposed by Frank Wiegele and F. Eugene Miller. Originally, they had planned to build a larger center, including a bank, but the state informed them that it would need an additional 15 feet of the proposed center property for construction of the freeway. The matter will go to the city council for final approval.

Action on proposed rezoning of property south of Carson St., between Maple and Carson, for apartment use was held over for further study.

Class Letter Gets Answer From Adams

Fourth and fifth graders in Larry Miller's class at Parkway School were excited recently to get a letter from Sherman Adams, assistant to President Eisenhower.

The letter was in response to a letter the class had sent to President Eisenhower which stated:

"We support the government's program on scientific research and development so that we may conquer outer space. We also wish for your continued health and improving golf game."

In response, the class got a letter signed by Adams, which said:

"The President has asked me to thank you for your letter expressing interest in our scientific research and development efforts. He wants you to know that he appreciates your thoughtfulness in writing to him. He is grateful, too, for your cordial good wishes."

Before sending the letter, the class engaged in a contest to see whose was best and finally chosen one written by Suzy De Turk.

NHS Selects Warnemuende As President

Jim Warnemuende was elected president of the North High School student body, it was announced at a student dance Friday night. Balloting was held Wednesday.

Warnemuende is a former junior and senior class president at North High and nosed out Leila Santor and Ken Bergamo for the top office. Darlene Holechek was named student body vice president.

New class presidents picked by the students included Bob McHugh, seniors; Mike Cummings, juniors; Ariel Bybee, sophomores; and Mason Wolpert, freshmen. Tom Steinemann and Diana Bybee will head the Boys and Girls Leagues, respectively.

Other student body officers included Yvonne Knight, business manager; Bob Halliwell, club coordinator; Nancy Moon-ey, activities; Ronald Haws, athletics; Judy Nelson, finance; Joyce Flocken, group control; Karen Kennedy, publicity; Maureen Frank, pep; Ada Garcia, corresponding secretary; Becky Reynosa, recording secretary.

Firemen Rescue Flag At Local High School

It was Torrance firemen to the rescue Thursday, as the flag at Bishop Montgomery High School, 5430 Torrance Blvd., got stuck at the top of the pole.

The flag was rescued by the firefighters, who wheeled out their aerial ladder truck to straighten up the snarled rope.

Rivets Reports

January will continue to seem more like June, Rivets reported as he hunted up his beach ball. Forecast for today is continued warm and sunny. Temperatures this week included Thursday (80-40); Friday (81-42); and Saturday (74-42)

A Penny for your Thoughts

The HERALD's inquiring photographer this week tossed out a long-debated, but never acted-upon, question: "Should 18-year-olds be allowed to vote?"

Joseph E. Laskaris, 2015 Cabrillo, aircraft worker: "Yes. If a man is able to work and serve his country, I think he's of age. Every generation is moving up faster. They hold more responsible jobs than we used to."

Mrs. Charlene Alarcon, 1807 Schilling Dr., police matron: "Yes. I believe 18-year-olds should get the vote. The sooner they are allowed to express their opinions, they would take an earlier interest in government affairs and try to understand city management."

Doug Cannon, 2222 1/2 Torrance Blvd., YMCA secretary: "I do not believe they should be allowed to vote unless the other laws restricting their privileges under 21 also are amended. At present, they are considered minors. It seems hardly fair to call them adults for voting but minors when it pertains to other things, such as fulfilling contracts."

Mrs. Dorothy Murphy, 22909 Adolph Ave., housewife: "I can't see why they should vote. Kids don't hardly know what to do with their lives. They change their minds too much at that age."

Don Mansfield, 4237 Paseo de las Tortugas, assistant city manager: "I think 18-year-olds are entitled to vote. We expect them to fight and even die for their country. They surely should have a voice in determining how the country is run."

Mrs. Joyce Thorson, 22704-A Earl St., housewife: "They should not be allowed to vote because they do not know what they really want themselves. They aren't capable of making big decisions like that."